

# TOC H JOURNAL

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## IS THE MAIN OBJECT OF TOC H PRACTICABLE?—II.

THE little ritual of initiation tells us how we try to maintain the "spirit of Christian fellowship and service manifested by all ranks during the Great War." "What first lit this Light?" "Unselfish sacrifice." "What alone can maintain it?" "Unselfish Service." "What is service?" "The rent we pay for our room on earth." There are people, even in Toc H, who think all this, and especially perhaps the answer to the last question, rather sentimental. I know there are, for I used to be one of those people myself—and our eyes are sharp to see our own mistakes when other people are kind enough to make them. I know now that the little ritual has a real, and deep, meaning, and I shall hope to make those "responses"—which imply promises—not once but many times. As I go on I think I shall find myself laying more and more stress on "unselfish" in the first two answers, as the really important word. And I shall realise more and more that the third answer reminds us of a fact which in a world numbed and blinded by pessimism it is easy to forget—that, if the Christian faith be true, life is a privilege for which we cannot pay highly enough. "The body is not the prison of the soul, but a servant and instrument placed by God at its disposal; the union of the soul and the body is not a punishment of the soul, but a beneficent link by which the human soul may attain to its perfection."

But I cannot find all the answer I want in the ritual. I know that the prescription works, that the sincere following of the words of the ritual brings about what we call Toc H. But what many of us, I suspect, want to get at is not that the thing is right because it works, but that the thing is essentially right, and therefore it works. So we must, I think, dig down a little further. And we may not find the answer at once. It was the War which called out the spirit we are trying to maintain and pass on, and circumstances now are so utterly different. Perhaps the greatest difference is this. The background of Talbot House, Poperinghe, was a *whole life* of fellowship and service, into which men could, and did, put all that they had and were. Even if we get something of the same spirit into the time we spend in Toc H, into our jobs of service, into parts of our private lives—what of the rest? It is all very well for Alec Paterson to say:—"There are two sorts of people only, the givers

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and the getters. The motives of service and of acquisition are directly contrary, and are at the root of conduct." It is all very well for him to suggest that it is useless to spend most of our lives serving the motive of acquisition, and to think that we can make up for that by spending a few hours a week under the motive of service. How many people would give a very great deal to feel that service was at the root of their daily work, and cannot feel it—or think that they cannot! A. P., after all, we may say, is one of the few. We hear a lot about the difference between the people who have both money, and the power which money gives—and the rest of us. We do not hear so much of a dividing-line which cuts across this and is possibly more important. There are those—they are by no means always rich in this world's goods—who have work into which they can put all, or nearly all, of the best faculties they have, work in which they can *grow*. And there are those whose work, rightly or wrongly, makes little or no appeal to the best that is in them, work in which they may shrink and shrivel up, unless they can find opportunities for growth outside. It is true that many of them do, that they "grow" in a way that ought to surprise some of us more than it does—but this does not happen always. When we look back, we ought to remember, I think, how much power and energy and capacity the War called out in the most surprising places, what reserves of those things there were to be called out. It was not poverty that I was thinking of a moment ago, though poverty and work which deadens, or at best offers only a material reward, too often go together. But perhaps I can make my point best by quoting some words written of poverty by a Franciscan, in an essay called "A Modern Friar":—"One cannot move very intimately among the poor in our city slums without becoming aware of a type of character, exquisite in its spiritual beauty, which, like some mountain bloom, thrives only where the ground is stony and the inclines steep, and which would sicken in a richer soil. Poverty is one of the liberties of the children of God; but the world has done its best to destroy that liberty by loading it with conditions which depress the spirit and make for moral and spiritual squalor. The first of these conditions has been the isolation of the poor in their struggle for the necessities of existence; . . . whereas the natural heritage of the poor, as of all human beings, are the broad highways of life with their immediate opportunities for the exercise of the soul's faculties." In the War Everyman had those opportunities, with what results we know. The opportunities were not for getting, but for giving—giving in conscious co-operation with others who themselves were giving all they had, giving for a cause they believed to be right and just, and worthy of the best they had to give. And then we had that amazing "triumph of spirit over matter," that extraordinary uprush of energy from somewhere, which we were thinking of last month. Was the measure of man's spiritual accomplishment thus enlarged "for the duration of the War only"? Suppose, just suppose, that that energy and power and capacity could come again, that man is so made that *those* are the opportunities he needs if he is to be what he can be. Look at it, for a moment, on a plane that is not the highest. "Any factory which could induce



for six months the united and enthusiastic concentration of, say, an amateur football team would produce quite astonishing results." Most people would say that it simply cannot be done. "It happens however that there are many cases where faith must precede the accomplished fact. . . . If man had always feared the untried, the ocean would still to-day be deemed unnavigable." Most people must have thought Christopher Columbus a fool when he set sail. But we have the amazing facts of the War to look back to, and are in search of something even greater than America.

To run into a political or economic discussion would be to provoke controversy. But there is a better reason for not doing it. I do not think that we should find what we are looking for in that way. I just note that when people talk of the industrial revolution they are talking of a fact, however they may regard it, and that I think that some of the greatest revolutions in the world have been carried out little by little by people who have no complete idea of what they were doing. What Mr. W. W. Carlile in his "Monetary Economics" says of the banking system seems to me true of greater things:—"We have in the banking system of to-day an elaborate mechanism the general features of which are capable of being copied every day, by new nations as they come into line with us in economic progress. Yet we know that there is not one of these features the emergence of which can justly be attributed to the inventive genius of any single individual. . . . We seem to be here in the presence of one of those surprising works of the common mind which are full of a still inadequately recognised significance. . . . The collective continuous mind seems to have in it something which cannot be accounted for offhand as the sum of the conscious thoughts and wishes of various individual minds." What concerns us is, not so much the responsibility or the motives, of any one man, or set of men, as the fact that the industrial system, which dominates more or less the lives of all of us, has somehow gone wrong. The common mind through whose working it has evolved has lost hold perhaps of some factor essential to real success, has, quite unintentionally perhaps, left, so to speak, the vitamins out of its dietary. Anyhow, it is a fact—however we may "re-act" to it or propose to deal with it—that there is a great and widespread dissatisfaction with many of its results. Many of the people who see that most of the dull and tiresome things men have to do are clearly necessary, if men are to live, are beginning to wonder whether, in harnessing men to these tasks, we have not somehow contrived to throttle them down as well. "Throttling down" a water-main may do more than reduce the flow; carried far enough it may lead to the bursting of the main. And we have, by analogy, already "a spirit of revolt against a life spent in the performance of one mechanical operation, devoid of interest and requiring little skill." The spirit of revolt is not new, though this cause of it may be. Someone has just reminded me that the heart of Zacchaeus must have been full of revolt—until he took trouble to see Our Lord and was made welcome.

I set out last month the two ideas for which I suggest that the deaths of the Elder Brethren "cleared a space." Those ideas were once widespread in the

world. However ignorant and incompetent and superstitious people were, they did know once that life was not "an aimless walk, but a journey," to a definite end, that the supreme reality was spiritual—in short, that man can neither be rightly understood nor rightly handled except on the basis that his *prime* interests are not material things at all. And, if anyone doubts whether the sense of adventure once ran through great tracts of Christian life, let him read of St. Francis and the early Franciscans, and try to realise why they desired to "embrace poverty"—and what sort of poverty they desired to embrace. "As it is true that the rich man must be poor in spirit in order to be Christ's disciple, so it is equally true that the poor man must be rich in spirit even in regard to the earth, if he is to be like Christ." "Spiritual possession is obtained when mind and heart are enlarged in their intercourse with the external world, and a man takes to himself the truth and beauty and pathos which lie at the heart of things. This, after all, is the deepest and most enduring possession in the world's life which man is capable of; it is the one sort of possession which really enlarges a man's spirit and makes him more a man." With the memory of what men did in the War in our minds, can we say that it is quite impossible that *this* may be the sort of possession on which a man's heart is really set? Of course he does not always say that, or behave as if that was what he meant. But we are thinking of *real* needs, and what are we that we should judge?

We published in this JOURNAL in November, 1924, a little paper by one of the Elder Brethren. "It is extraordinary," wrote Archie Turner, "how all this business (of the War) makes one realise the value of blokes. To think of things is mouldier, but to think of blokes is continually reviving. . . . If only there could get about an idea that it would be a good thing to be poor in things and to excel in blokage!" Set against that the words I have quoted from the essay called "A Modern Friar." Grasp and hold the fact—lots of people just know it—that very many indeed of the men who lit the Lamps we are to maintain had lived most of their lives under "conditions which depress the spirit and make for moral and spiritual squalor." Stop just for a moment and try to *see* what living under those conditions without hope of respite really means; and bring sharp up against that the confident assertion of the Scottish Shorter Catechism that "man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever."

We thought specially in April of Toc H as a "human zoo," and of our trying to break down water-tight compartments which separate men. But we must try to break down also water-tight compartments between the ideas by which men live—ideas which are at the root of conduct—and we must begin with ourselves. (That, incidentally, is why in Toc H we do not spend time passing resolutions about other people's business.) If what the Shorter Catechism says is true for two hours on Sunday, it is true *all* the time. And other things, many of which are also true but quite secondary, if this really is the truth, have to be fitted in and adjusted until they find their proper places. And this truth must somehow become the master-key to the problems of our own lives



and of our relations with other people. The very difficulty of it is a challenge to adventure. The Elder Brethren would laugh, I am sure, at the idea that we could maintain their spirit merely by doing easy and pleasant things. Truly it is no easy task for any of us to unify our lives, to get one simple purpose running through all of them, "a positive and deliberate loyalty to the truth by which one lives." The real point, as we shall see, of the little jobs that Toc H does is that in them and in the life of the family this loyalty is being learned.

When I said in February that Toc H seemed to me "not a society of fractions of people, of abstractions from people," but of whole men, I was not trying to make a phrase. Man can be divided, or can divide himself, into fractions. or set up water-tight compartments between parts of his life. He can be one man at his work, another in his leisure, and another still in the odd moments he may give to cultivating his soul—if he realises that he has one, or on the off-chance. But you and I must not go on like that, for it is an essential part of the business of Toc H to raise up spiritual children to our dead. And they clearly were whole men, their lives unified by one simple purpose, which involved their denying themselves, and that "giving of all for all" which, Mrs. Herman says, "is the condition of every great and serious business."

As I feared, I have not yet reached the answer I have been looking for. But perhaps we have come some way. I feel sure that there lies waiting for us work much greater than we ever dream of now. But I am more sure that we are not yet ready to attempt it. One of the members of our Executive has driven home to many of us the idea of Toc H as a unifying force. I agree wholeheartedly, but I think that a deal of unifying has first to be done in us. Let us quote Mrs. Herman again. She is writing of the great ascetic saints. "Their lives were the simple outcome of that irreducible logic of theirs. They had seen Jesus! And once a soul has seen Jesus, and dares to abide by its vision, life is a very simple matter, and has all the hardness and difficulty of simple things." There may be great tasks for Toc H in days to come. Our most pressing job here and now is, I am sure, to realise the value of blokes, to help them to realise their own value. And we cannot do it unless we know Him "who loved us and gave Himself for us."

P. W. M.

"THE FANATIC."—In the April JOURNAL (p. 142) Peter Monie, writing of the fellowship of Toc H, said: "We are deliberately trying to build it up of people *naturally* so discordant, so discrepant, that without (Christ) the thing would fight itself to pieces. We have burned our boats—not without remembering two lines written by G. K. Chesterton: 'It was the man who burned his boats who set the Thames on fire.' " Some readers may have wondered where the (slightly mis-) quoted words of G. K. C. came from. The manuscript poem, a gift from the author, hangs on the stairs at Mark II, and was reproduced in *The Christmas Spirit*, the Toc H Annual for 1920; as most present-day members have never seen the Annual we give the poem again on the next page. At the time it expressed the "war-weariness" of 1919-1920, but it might as well have been intended for the present moment in industry, when there is desperate need that men, in a new fellowship together, should take coal—"the drifting dust"—and "praise" it and "love it well," and work it, in honour towards one another and for the common good.—ED.

## The Tonic.

We have thought long enough & talked long enough  
And the world is weary of words  
And the sword itself is clockwork now  
A sullen wheel of swords.

Like sickening steams before the sun  
The fumes of culture creep—  
And the wise men laugh more sadly  
Than the strong men used to weep.

And I know that clouds are alive & cling  
And the dusty path is rough  
But I know that the least grain of the dust  
Has never been pacified enough.

A single grain of the drifting dust  
If we took it & loved it well  
We could blow the trumpet north & south  
And fight with the world as well.

And find the truth of an ancient thing  
Lost on the oldest Lyne.  
It was the Man who burnt his ships  
Who set the Thames on fire.

E. K. Westcott



## TOC H FOR THE COUNTRYSIDE—III

*The third and last article by the members of the Countrymen's Council: the previous articles appeared in the March and May JOURNALS, and the three together will be available, reprinted in pamphlet form, for members specially interested in the country work of Toc H.*

IN our previous diatribes we have attempted to discuss the extraordinary opportunity before Toc H in our country districts and to suggest a line of development and organisation by which this strange idea from the battle-front and the city may become naturalised in our countrysides. We propose herein, still working upon facts of tested and sifted experience, to suggest *the kind of service* that Toc H can hope to render in scattered rural communities.

Correspondence with Groups and Branches already alive in such places provides a list of jobs of charming diversity undertaken by members corporately or personally—from chopping wood and collecting pensions for old folk to maintaining the rights of a hamlet to a polling-booth, from securing fair compensation for a fox's night's amusement in a widow's poultry yard to provoking a thoughtful discussion among butchers on the merits of humane killers, from digging a swimming bath for Scouts to running a parish Fair. It is obvious that such a list will be extended indefinitely when Toc H gets going in our countrysides.

But, when a Countrymen's Branch or Group starts, what it needs is not a long list of scattered jobs that can be done, but a *policy of service*—a dominant idea of what should ultimately result from the presence of a Toc H Branch in a rural community. And it is in order to stimulate and guide our country members, groups and branches to this conception that we offer the following notes and suggestions:—

Undoubtedly there are two factors dominant in every typical country community, though possibly of small importance in a city, which condition the prospects of Toc H service.

### THE PERSONAL FACTOR.

1. The value of any voluntary service a member, or group of members, can render in their community depends upon the standard of their ordinary daily work. In a town or suburban Branch we conceive that many members only know each other (and are known among their neighbours) at home. One is "something in the City." Another "works in so-and-so factory." The third is "a solicitor." A fourth is "in an office." That is enough. In the country we are known to each other (and are known among our neighbours) by the work we do. We know each other's business even better than we know our own. And—perhaps not altogether unfairly—we are judged, and our influence is limited, by the standard of our work. It is not a question of whether one is a blacksmith and the other a squire. But whether one is a *good* blacksmith and the other a reasonable landlord and a just master. The word quickly travels

round that so-and-so's farm is going downhill, or that a tradesman is overcharging, or a bailiff neglectful, or a manager unreasonable.

It may not be a pleasant doctrine, but it is a true one—in the country—that if we would start a Branch of Toc H our first business is to make good in our daily work (or get into a job in which we can make good). And for our members we must have men who are known to be entirely faithful (not necessarily what is popularly called successful) in the work they have in hand and by which they earn their daily bread. And as the Country Branch goes on, its officers will find again and again that their first obligation to aspirants or probationary members is to inspire them to do well the work they have in hand or to help them to find the jobs in which they can make good. For in the country a man who has not won respect in his own bread-earning job is not wanted for voluntary service.

#### SLOW AND SURE.

2. Broadly speaking, in the country, nobody is going to want Toc H (or believe in it) because it is a new thing or has a strange name, or romantic associations with the War. Moreover, 90 per cent. of those who sympathise with its ideals will sorrowfully grieve that it cannot be done. "People won't take to a new thing," "It is no use, you won't be trusted," and so forth. Therefore, it seems to be courting disaster to start with a flourish of trumpets, and probably there are few places where it will be wise to begin with a public meeting. Better far that a little company of men with the right thing at heart, representing different occupations and schools of thought, should chum together and plan quietly what they can do.

It will probably then be found that by far their wisest course of action will be to work through, and to seek to inspire, existing agencies. One Country Branch took as its motto at the first a sentence of the Founder-Padre that it was an ideal of Toc H "to give to every boy in England the best chance possible," so it got behind the scouts where they existed and pushed scouts into existence where they did not, the original members each undertaking some share of the task, and all pledging themselves together to see scouts through. Their reward was that soon there were strong scout troops in the five villages they represented and few people knew that Toc H had anything to do with it.

Or again the village Men's Club does not want to be "tackled" by Toc H. But if two or three kindred spirits agree to become active members with a view to putting new life and purpose into the village Club it is extraordinary what a transformation is possible. Similar things can be done to help and strengthen Country Branches of the British Legion, to help forward the practical work of such useful organisations as the Playing Fields Association and the Rural Community Council, which in many places are languishing for lack of just the men of such a spirit as a Toc H Branch should produce.

When the Community finds out that we in Toc H are to be depended upon and are not at all out for our own ends, it will gradually come to trust us and be glad to turn to us for work which we are specially fitted to do. Already more than one Branch has been given the sacred charge of looking after the



parish War Memorial. Others take a leading part in planning Armistice Day Commemoration. Another hopes to be asked soon to plan a new children's recreation ground. Other have arranged concert tours and so forth for groups of villages, and in various ways others are bringing into touch with the parson—and the Church—men who were otherwise rather beyond his reach.

### A QUIET REVOLUTION.

It is easy to see the vast fields of service that lie open before us if Toc H preserves its true spirit and goes quietly in the country and makes good the ground it occupies. But our advice is try rather to conceive your Country Branch as a corporate soul or spirit, possessed by a small group of whole-hearted men determined each to show the Toc H spirit in his own work. And the Branch and Wing exist to keep alive and deepen the true spirit of friendship and unselfishness, to be a brotherhood of men who wish to do service for others, each in his own way and according to his opportunity, who meet periodically for fellowship around their Lamp or Rushlight, and together survey the fields of service open to them, desiring to make the life of their country district gayer, happier, friendlier, and especially more kindly towards the boys and girls and the aged people.

Someone has said that a Country Branch should be called a Branch of "bad brothers"—Brothers, who have many faults but are determined henceforth to learn always to think and act on the Brother principle. And yet another countryman, a man who knows country life and the life of his County as few of us do, described the ideal Countrymen's Branch as a Band of modern Friars of the Villages, unconventional, in no sense sanctimonious, committed to spread the Gospel without preaching, living by God's help for friendship and brotherly kindness. Either would be a true and worthy description of Toc H in the country, and if Toc H could be true to them as it spreads in our country districts it would undoubtedly turn country life inside out. "THE HAYSEEDS."

## EVERYMAN'S STORY IV.—THE BOYS' BRIGADE

*Two instances—out of many—of co-operation between Toc H and the Boys' Brigade were given in the April JOURNAL (p. 150). The Editor of The Boys' Brigade Gazette now contributes an article—in exchange for an article on Toc H which appeared in the May number of his paper—on the B.B. (A similar exchange of articles has already taken place between our JOURNAL, February, 1925, and the Church Lads' Brigade magazine, The Brigade, and we hope soon to repeat the operation in the case of our JOURNAL and the Boys' Life Brigade Chronicle.) We should all be on the look-out to remove the impression, if any such exists, that Toc H as a movement is wedded to any method of boys' work as the only good one, and Branches and Groups can best show their indebtedness to the writer of the following article for his account of the senior boys' organisation by getting into touch, right away, with the B.B. in their own place.*

THE Boys' Brigade is an organisation for boys of from 12 to about 18 years of age, and its Object is: "The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys, and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect, and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness."

Formed in the year 1883 by Sir William A. Smith, a Glasgow Sunday School teacher, as a help to Sunday School and Church, it was the pioneer of all such movements for boys. It is not too much to say that it was the B.B. that first aroused the interest of the nation in its boyhood. In the years 1885 to 1890 the movement spread rapidly throughout the kingdom, and some hundreds of Companies were formed. The great majority of English Companies belonged to the Church of England. In due course other Brigades were formed on similar lines, the chief ones being the Church Lads' Brigade, the Roman Catholic Boys' Brigade, the Jewish Lads' Brigade, and, later, the Boys' Life Brigade. Still later came the Boy Scouts on rather different lines, but inspired by the Boys' Brigade, to whose founder Sir Robert Baden-Powell has paid generous tribute for the help and encouragement received at the start.

As was said long ago by Principal Sir George Adam Smith, D.D., "Sir William Smith has done for the elementary-school boy what Arnold of Rugby did for the public-school boy."

The Boys' Brigade is essentially a religious movement. It takes up everything that should enter into healthy boy-life, and brings it under Christian influence and control. It is inter-denominational—and this should appeal to Toc H men! Companies are connected with the Church of England, Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, and Methodist Churches, and with Ragged Schools, Missions, and Lads' Clubs. While the religious teaching and the attendance at combined services are under the control of the Church to which the Company belongs, Chaplains and officers of all denominations meet frequently at conferences and councils and on the playing fields, and by this intimacy they come to see the good in the views and ideas of others, and their own ideas and sympathies are broadened. There is no other movement that brings into such close intimacy so many men of different classes, types and denominations, and so promotes the spirit of unity in the Churches.

#### APPEALING TO A BOY'S INSTINCTS.

The reason of its success is that it appeals to a boy's instincts. Boys are naturally noisy, rowdy, with an instinctive desire to rebel against authority, to upset things, to get the better of those in charge. But all this is on the surface, for boys really love order and discipline, and being mastered by one who proves his power to master them. They "try it on" with everyone in authority, but as soon as they realise that the man in authority will be firm, and at the same time friendly and understanding, they will follow him loyally, and stick to him through thick and thin.

The B.B. takes advantage of these boyish characteristics to band the boys together and inculcate discipline, smartness, cleanliness, and *esprit de corps*. And there is nothing like drill to generate *esprit de corps* in a haphazard collection of boys. Drill binds them together; they act as one on a word of command; they all take part in it, and the smartness of a movement depends upon *every* boy—not upon the big boys or the clever ones. In this, drill is



quite different from all other activities—football, cricket, gymnastics, and so on. There you have selected teams in which only the few can gain a place. But in the weekly drill the small boys and the dull boys have their place. They feel that they will let the Company down unless they try their hardest, and that the credit of the Company is in their hands just as much as in those of the star boys. Though they may not shine in games or classes, still their belt-buckles can shine. The Company is divided into squads, each in charge of a N.C.O. who thus receives a training in responsibility. To the younger boys he is the big brother. If any boy is absent from drill or Bible Class, it is his duty to know the reason. If this is simply slackness, or some real or fancied grievance, the good N.C.O. knows how to put matters right. If it is through illness or some family trouble, he informs the Captain, who visits the home.

#### THE BRIGADE SPIRIT.

This feeling that every boy has his own place in the Company generates *esprit de corps*. Once you get that, there is nothing you cannot get boys to do. They will turn up for Sunday morning Bible Class at 9.30, though no other member of their households gets up before mid-day. At a Sunday morning class visited recently, out of 184 boys on the Company roll, 182 were present and punctual, the other two being on milk rounds. Last session, in the original Company of the Brigade, the 1st Glasgow, 88 boys went through the session without being once absent or a moment late at drill or Bible Class. But, perhaps, the most striking instance of all was seen in Dublin last September, on the occasion of the Brigade Council annual meetings in that city. Eight hundred Old Boys, of from 19 to 55 years of age, took part in the Battalion Review, first as a separate unit, and then in the ranks of their old Companies, man and boy alternately. Among them were clergymen, lawyers, directors of big firms, clerks, artisans—young men in plus-fours side by side with men in shabby garb. That meant *esprit de corps*! We know how self-conscious men are, especially those who have not got on well in the world. But they turned out because of their love for the old Brigade, and because most of them had kept in touch with the Churches to which they had been attracted as Brigade Boys.

In a good Company most evenings of the week are occupied—educational classes, ambulance, bands, signalling, indoor games, drill, gymnastics, football, cricket, swimming, rambles, etc. But the Bible Class, in the course of years, becomes the centre from which all other activities radiate. Naturally, the Bible Class is not an “attraction,” but it is what holds the boys together when “attractions” have lost their edge, and after the Company has been running for a few years it is the best-attended of the weekly meetings.

#### “THE GOLDEN RULE.”

The Boys' Brigade is the least expensive of organisations for boy, officer, and church. The accoutrements cost the boy two to three shillings only, and the officer's “uniform” is hardly more expensive. The idea that the Brigade

teaches "militarism" is not entertained by any who have taken the trouble to know something about it. It teaches good comradeship, friendliness to all, and practical application of the Golden Rule. A great effort is made to interest the boys in Foreign Missions, and many Companies support their own cots in Mission hospitals, or their own missionaries, or the overseas Companies with which they are linked. For Foreign Missions and similar objects more than £3,200 was raised last year at the Bible Classes.

The Toc H motto, "All rank abandon, ye who enter here," is one that appeals tremendously to B.B. men, for whom the only ranks sanctioned are those of Captain and Lieutenant, and these titles must not be used except by the boys and to the boys. In council and conference all are equal. On the occasion of a "Battalion" parade, the acting C.O., Major, and Adjutant are appointed just for the hour or two of the parade. Brown may be in command of a battalion of 30 Companies at one parade, adjutant at the next, and a subaltern behind his platoon at the third. Colonel Robinson, D.S.O., may rank as Lieutenant in the B.B., the Captain of his Company being a former private in Robinson's old regiment. The officers of the Brigade include all sorts and conditions of men, and members of all political parties. Some 6,000 of them are Old Boys, largely working-class lads. The things they have in common are a love for the boy, an understanding of boy nature, and a desire to lead him to Jesus Christ.

#### WANTED—MEN!

The great weakness of the Churches is acknowledged to be that the older boys and young men are not attracted. They do not realise how greatly they are needed by the Churches—how much they could do to strengthen the Churches. The B.B. endeavours to hold the boys through the difficult years of adolescence, attach them to their Churches, and fit them to become church-workers. In many Churches and Sunday Schools practically all the male teachers and workers are Old Boys of the Brigade. Many Churches are anxious to form Companies, but they can't get the men to run them. That is *the* great need—men. Young men especially, and most of all those of good education, who do not realise how the boys of the crowded city areas need friends to take an interest in them. If only young men knew how attractive and interesting and jolly it is—when once the first step has been taken—there would be no lack of officers. Those who take up this work will never regret it. They will be repaid a hundredfold by the loyalty of their boys. The camaraderie, the spirit, the ideals of Toc H are exactly what will appeal to B.B. men, but many who would be proud to be Toc H men also are shy about joining because they feel that, as a free evening is a rare event, they could not be useful members. Quite rightly, they do not like to join and then be unable to pull their weight, but we must co-operate to find a solution.

NOTE: *The Secretary, The Boys' Brigade, 34 Paternoster Row, E.C.4, will be glad to give further information.*—ED.



## A NEW PILGRIM'S PROGRESS—XV

**L**AST month we were able to trace Padre Harry Ellison's progress from Egypt, *via* Aden, from point to point down the Eastern coast of Africa : a note at the end from C. N. Larkin reported his arrival in South Africa and the happy start of his campaign at Krugersdorp and Johannesburg. "Uncle Harry" himself sends us much good news this month in the letter which follows :—

*In the Train—Johannesburg  
to Port Elizabeth.*

8 p.m., May 3rd, 1926.

My dear "Journalists,"

This 700 mile journey has given me the first chance of writing you since—I really don't know when ! I have told you of Beira, our last point of call, and of the great meeting we had there, thanks mainly to "Woodie"—Capt. Woodward, who has paid his subscription for years like a man, though he had never met Toc H in the flesh, and who leapt at the chance of trying to get a group going with the aid of Beira Junior Club. It was my first remote touch with S. Africa, as, in all events, the old 3 ft. 6 in. gauge, which I knew so well in the old Railway Mission days, runs there, *via* Rhodesia, to Cape Town. And it was mighty full of hope—forty good men and true all keen to get down to the idea and try it out, but with little to begin on, as I had run pretty short of literature by then. However, that is remedied by now. I think many a time of those small knots of men, so remote from each other down that huge stretch of coast ; some of whom—possibly all—are, I know, wrestling with the poor ideas hurled at them by this passing pilgrim, and trying to work them out in spite of the thermometer. And I want all of you to remember them too :—Aden, Mombasa, Tanga, Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam, Beira (let alone Egypt and Palestine).

And so at long last to this land of Promise. I must say at once that I have been literally overwhelmed by the reception Toc H has had given to it in Johannesburg. I knew little beyond the fact that Padre Godfrey Evans had been trying to work things up, and that I had written many letters, mostly without reply, to other men. At Komati Poort, the Transvaal border, I had a wire of welcome from the "Committee" in Johannesburg and was assured by the conductor that "we are all waiting for you up there." Evans met us at the first station before Johannesburg, and, as soon as my wife and I landed on the platform at Park Station at 8 a.m. we met the truest Tochacher that ever lived, Neville Larkin, who, with the help of his bride of three months' standing, has given days and nights to paving the way : he is Secretary of the Committee. We then fell (for the first time in my modest career) into the hands of the Press and found ourselves (photographs, interviews and all) exhibited in both the Evening and Morning papers in a manner distinctly embarrassing if it were not so extraordinarily friendly, and expectant of all that Toc H may mean to this land. Toc H cannot be grateful enough to the *Star* and the *Rand Daily Mail* for the help they have given us in their columns, and for many recorded and personal acts of kindness by members of their staffs. After "posing" with a dear old porter friend we were whisked off to Bishop Karney's beautiful home, where for ten days past we have just had kindness and help of every kind showered upon us. The one fly in the ointment has been that we all had to see Geoffrey Evans off to England on Thursday last, the only tragic result of my month's delay so far. You will know how to welcome him at home if you realise what he has done for Toc H here, the busiest of parish priests though he is : Toc H Johannesburg will know how to welcome him back. Well—a full meeting of the Committee next day, at Park Station once more, to discuss their full programme, then the most hectic ten days' work I can remember, but made a sheer joy by the keenness one has met on

every side, and by the meeting with so many old friends. An office in the heart of the town had to be secured, and was given free by one of the great Banks, and endless details and enquiries had to be dealt with.\*

It was obviously impossible in view of the universal interest to confine oneself to one Johannesburg Group, even if London experiences had allowed one even to think of it. Consequently, we are aiming, at all events, at one Johannesburg Central Group, to be formed at a meeting in a great central tea-room (again lent free of charge); about five suburban groups; and possibly two at each end of the sixty miles or so of the Rand, of which Johannesburg is the central spot. The programme also includes four days in a great training camp of some 3,000 men, providentially arranged, I'm thinking; talks to the Johannesburg Synod, to Free Church Ministers, to the University Students, to Rotary, and to a conference of my old Railway Mission staff as to possibilities in the smaller places; to probably two Public Schools, to the Scout Council and to a big meeting of the ex-Service men and others. Then in five days to Pretoria (940 miles away, with, I think, eight talks) where Neville Talbot and his gallant men are preparing the way bravely. Include in this little six weeks' programme my present run down to the Coast for the Grahamstown Synod to pave the way for future plans, and you will realise what a keenness Toc H has already called out among men up this way (every meeting so far has been bursting with it, even when I myself have been beyond hope as a speaker); what work this gallant Committee have put in; and why I personally am divided between singing my *Te Deum*, wishing to go to bed for a week, and longing for Tubby and Pat to be here to grasp this opportunity! I believe my wife is still alive, but I doubt if she thinks I am. Anyhow she is not forgetful of L.W.H. possibilities.

10.30 p.m. I have just glimpsed the first Toc H tie since Aden. Harry Devis, who is planning for Bloemfontein, met me at the station, with two of his friends, and we had a quarter of an hour's talk *re* plans, which promise well. I am afraid that I was an incorrigible optimist even before I came into touch with Tubby. Everyone warns one of the temperamental and passing enthusiasm of Johannesburg with 6,000 feet of altitude, but I have an equally firm conviction in the power of Toc H to overcome that bunker. The Groups (if, and when finally sanctioned) will build slowly and, I believe, as surely as in dear old West Ham, or on the heights of Happy Hampstead. One can soon detect the real Toc H thing, and, after twelve days renewed acquaintance with this beloved land, I can see that Johannesburg (and, I believe, the rest of South Africa) is just full of such men. My main difficulty will be to leave them when the time comes. But Gilbert Williams will soon be here to help to carry on, and you must set Tubby free once more before many moons are past."

#### THE "L.W.H. HALF-SECTION."

Mrs. Ellison writes on the same day to the Editor, enclosing three admirable press photographs by the Johannesburg *Star* of the hero of the piece—in one of which she herself appears. One of them shows "Uncle Harry" shaking hands on Johannesburg station platform with "a very old friend, a porter—Heathcote by name." "I've just seen H. off to Port Elizabeth," writes Mrs. Ellison. "Life for a Toc H member seems even more strenuous in S. Africa than in London. Tell Mrs. Barkis I foresee I shall be lucky if I occasionally see my husband between 1 a.m. and 7 p.m. However it is in a good cause and the L.W.H. half of me ought to be all the better pleased! The other half of me hopes he won't kill himself and is worried at the signs of his voice giving out—the after result, I think, of the ghastly heat all down the East Coast." She, meantime, was on her way to stay with Neville Talbot at Pretoria, where the other "half-section" of the pilgrimage would join her for the campaign there.

\* The address of the Toc H office is Room 27, National Bank Buildings, Simmonds Street, Johannesburg.



### A WONDERFUL BEGINNING.

THE latest news of all is unexpected and really wonderful. Headquarters received the following cable, dispatched from Johannesburg on June 1: "*First Conference eleven Transvaal Groups Thursday. 400 probationary members. Send message. Cheerio all! Ellison.*" It is clear from this that the programme outlined in the letter on the previous page has been far exceeded, and we shall eagerly await further details next month. Writing to Tubby on April 28 from Johannesburg "Uncle Harry" said, "Even if I had meditated it, it would be quite impossible to be content with just the solid little Group, as so many men are showing up as potential members, even after two out of some twenty-five meetings here and along the Reef. Last night at the Drill Hall some 300 men listened patiently and about 50 have applied for probationary membership of 'Johannesburg Central Group.' I can see that other functions will bring in many more names for that—let alone the eight or ten other meetings I have in the suburbs and along the Reef (60 or 70 miles in length). I am more thankful than I can say for your and Pat's lead as to pivotal men in each possible Group; I shall have to choose, in conjunction with padres and other wise men, these original members for each Group, instruct them well as to the 'innerness' of Toc H and shove all other applicants on a very strict probation. But all this will need more time than I anticipated and, even with the blessed advent of Billy Williams, I may well have to extend my stay for a month or so longer in the country. . . . I wish it were you, old man, but you must pray harder than ever: they are already asking when you are coming. I believe Toc H has almost a bigger opening here than anywhere. This country is noted for speedy enthusiasms: the test will come later, but I believe Toc H will survive it gloriously. Anyhow it won't be for lack of probation of Groups or of members."

### ANOTHER LITTLE TOUR

EASTER found the London Soccer Club in the South of France. Two matches were played against Cannes—the first a draw, 3-3, and the second a win for the French Club, which included several internationals, by 3 goals to nil. Before the first match we laid a beautiful wreath of red roses on the French Club's War Memorial. Lord Balfour came to the second match, and Lady Teggatt, General and Mrs. Groves, and many other English and American visitors watched one or other of the matches.

The hospitality was simply overwhelming. To Mr. Douglas Thorburn we owed all the careful arrangements and a great welcome; to Mr. Schmid the amazing hospitality of his superb hotel, the Beau-Site at Cannes; to the other guests in the hotel very pleasant friendship and real interest in Toc H and the matches (to Mr. Eckford in addition some very fine cigars!).

One day we were motored along the coast to Mentone and the Italian frontier, seeing something of Nice and Monte Carlo *en route*. At Mentone we were the guests of the Vice-Consul, Mr. Churchman, at lunch and our unanimous verdict was "the best host and the best lunch ever." Finally and roundly is our gratitude due to the President and members of the Cannes Soccer Club for the fine sporting games, their most generous hospitality and their friendship.

One member of the party, an optimist, rang for some shaving water by pulling the alarm of the Riviera Express. The engine uttered a piercing shriek and refused to work again for some time. Meantime there was much shouting and excitement, while the culprit desperately went "four no trumps." For the narrative about Mademoiselle from Margate, who presided at the Duke of York's, the goalkeeper's bright interlude with the gendarmes, and the many other thrilling assignments and adventures please apply to either A. J. Farnfield, T. B. Anglis, C. Thompson, K. Brodie, G. B. Kelly, A. L. Leighton, H. F. Robinson, J. R. Morris, B. Taylor, F. H. Wood, T. H. Lyttle, B. MacDavid, F. V. F. Bennett, R. J. O. Wilson or the Hon. Secretary.

S.

## A NORTHERN ITINERARY

*In the best manner of the late Mr. G. A. Henty ("With Kitchener to Khartum," "With Xerxes to Xanadu," etc.) the following notes ought to bear the title "With Tubby to Tyneside—and back." This rapid diary by his travelling companion shows how one City vicar, at any rate (and the rate is tremendous), "cultivates his garden" when he takes a fortnight off.*

**T**UBBY'S "second world tour," as Lady Harington called it, started from TOWER HILL at 12.15 a.m. on the night of April 9-10, during which we travelled at a furious rate to HUNTINGTON, where we arrived to find hot soup and warm beds awaiting us. Leaving Huntington at 10 a.m., we travelled in a more leisurely fashion along the great north road to arrive at Government House, YORK, as "Tim" Harington's guests in good time for dinner.

April 11 : On the following morning, Sunday, we joined with YORK Toc H in their corporate Communion, at which Tubby celebrated, in the beautiful little chapel of the West Yorks in the Minster. After breakfast Tubby preached at a very fine parade service in the Garrison Church. York Branch was there in force and during the opening hymn laid their Lamp and Banner on the altar. The Garrison Scouts were also well in evidence, and the extremely efficient way in which they carried out their duties as sidesmen left nothing to be desired. After the march past we visited the Military Hospital, and were shown round the Depot, which we found full of Army friends of Toc H. In the afternoon we had tea with the Archbishop, and at 6.30 met the York Branch in their jolly little club-room. This we found to be a real live show, at which it was good to see the Army so well represented. Perhaps the most outstanding job of this Branch is the help it has been able to give to soldiers about to retire to civilian life, on the subject of what sort of jobs to take up and how to prevent their hard earned savings disappearing into the pockets of the first sharks they come across. It is a real bit of Toc H service, and one that a good many other Branches might undertake to the eternal gratitude of the Army.

April 12 : On the Monday morning, after a visit to the Minster, we went to see Padre George Boddy, late of Middlesbrough, and found him full of a scheme for a settlement in the parish he has been sent to build up there. It was an attractive scheme, and one which will deserve the full support of the local branch. That and one or two other matters delayed our departure from York, and it was not until nearly 6 o'clock that we got away for SHEFFIELD. The less said about our arrival at the meeting place nearly two hours late the better. Suffice it to say that it was not entirely our fault, but it was most unfortunate that several people, including the Bishop, had to leave before our arrival. Owing to the assiduity of the Press, most of England will know of the loss during the meeting, and subsequent recovery by the Fire Brigade from the River Don, of Tubby's precious *attaché* case, with most of the more valuable contents still missing. Later, at Mark VIII, we paid tribute to the inner man and sat up till the small hours discussing the affairs of Toc H with hostellers and Branch members, among whom were some visitors from the Mansfield and Norwich Branches.

April 13 : Early the next morning (I had slept on the shortest and narrowest bed it has ever been my lot to find) Tubby celebrated in the tiny Chapel, surely the tiniest in the world. Thereafter life was a hectic rush. Having deposited Tubby with the Bishop, we rushed off to put advertisements in the local press for the lost *attaché* case and to do one or two other jobs before racing to HALIFAX, where we were to be the guests of about a dozen senior business men at a luncheon. The beauty of this luncheon was that no one was in a hurry to get back to business, so it was possible to discuss Toc H much more fully than is usually possible on such occasions. Our hosts showed a keen interest and sympathy and there is every reason to believe that Toc H in Halifax will have full support from its leading citizens.



Later in the day we went on to Mark XII, which we found in the process of setting itself in order. There was plenty of good material there, and in spite of difficulties in the past, it has carried on gamely and its finances are in good order. In very little time it should become a Mark second to none. The Branch meeting in the evening, at which representatives from SPEN VALLEY, HUDDERSFIELD and LIGHTCLIFFE were present, was a good one, and there was no lack of life and energy.

*April 14:* On the next day we were the guests of the Rotary Club, who gave us a hearty welcome and paid tribute to the work of Toc H in Halifax. Later we had tea with Lady Fisher-Smith, who, amongst her many other tasks, is finding time to help to organise the Toc H bazaar which will be held in the autumn. She is out to do all she can to help Toc H, and as we go to press we learn that she has sent down an army of charladies to Mark XII to undertake the preliminary work in making it an A1 Mark.

That night we were at BRADFORD, where we were joined by "Tim" Harington for the Branch meeting. Bradford has a very wonderful club-room—so "posh," indeed, that in the past the "world's workers" have fought rather shy of it. The Branch is however making a new and hopeful start to overcome this difficulty.

*April 15:* We arrived back at YORK shortly after 1 a.m., having given a lift *en route* to the largest policeman in Yorkshire, and spent a restful night and morning. In the afternoon Tubby and Tim set off for North Cave in Tim's car, and I followed after attending to one or two things in the sporting little Bean. After tea we all went over with our host, Major Carver, for the meeting in Mark X at HULL. We have been told by the L.N.E.R., for several years, that the East Coast is so bracing and, having been to Mark X, I begin to see why it is. I recommend anyone who is down in the dumps to pay Mark X a visit and, if he leaves in the same condition, he is incurable. I wish I had time and space to describe it fully. I don't think I have ever seen such cheery hospitality anywhere. Lest others should feel despondent, let me hasten to say that Hull has been through its bad period, and that what Hull has brought to life other branches can too. We don't give thanks in Toc H and it is invidious to single out names, but Hull itself will be the first to acknowledge how much it owes to our host and to its real live wire of a full-time Padre.

*April 16:* We left Hull for SCARBOROUGH on the following day, Friday, full of renewed hope for Toc H in this great industrial North. Tim, unfortunately, had to return unexpectedly to York, and we found a joint meeting of the SCARBOROUGH and WHITBY Groups, with the Mayor and some of the Councillors as guests, awaiting us in the most palatial Council Chambers I have ever seen. We sat round there while the Mayor (who gave a remarkably good chit to the work of Toc H in Scarborough) and Tubby talked to us. At the end of an hour we adjourned for refreshments and then, unable to again face the splendour of the Council Chamber, we sat on the floor of the vestibule, where we could smoke and be natural, and carried on. With the veil of restraint removed, we really began to get to know each other, and we found Scarborough and Whitby full of keen men with bags of good material among them. I understand that they are combining with BRIDLINGTON to run a summer camp for West Yorkshire boys each year (*see* p. 227). They are also running a hospital library, as Halifax and Bradford are also beginning to do.

*April 17:* Next day we left Yorkshire for NEWCASTLE—Tubby and Tim Harington early in order to be present at the Lord Mayor's luncheon, and I, being a bit under the weather, later and at a more leisurely pace with the luggage. There is neither time nor space to describe in full the opening of Mark XVIII by Tim, the consecration of the various rooms and the Thanksgiving and re-dedication Service at the Cathedral, after a brief visit to the Y.W.C.A. *en route*. The service was practically identical with that of the Birthday Festival and was well attended by all Branches and Groups round Newcastle.

*April 18 :* Early on Sunday morning there was a very wonderful Celebration in the little House Chapel. All Toc H was there and so was the L.W.H. Many Free Church members came as guests but did not join in the Feast, and I understand that a few Anglican members refrained from partaking on their account. It was a real family gathering and the singing of the hymns was magnificent. Mark XVIII has started on the right lines and should be a centre of power. The hostellers are truly Franciscan and all have to take their turn at running the house. Someone is detailed every day to be on duty from 5 o'clock onwards : he helps to wash up after tea, helps with the supper, lays the breakfast for the following morning, and is entirely at the disposal of any visitors. All hostellers make their own beds and keep their own rooms clean and tidy, and the cooking is done by "Aunty," who was a member of one of the boy's clubs—and done well too, as I can testify through having spent the week-end there.

In the afternoon we went down to the CULLERCOATS Group meeting in the Red Cross Hut on Whitley Bay front. It was a splendid meeting and full of promise. The thing that sticks out in my memory there was the sight of two fellows, one wearing a Patrol Leader's badge and the other an A.C.M.'s, interpreting Tubby's talk by means of the deaf and dumb alphabet to two deaf people there—a simple and unassuming, but a real, Toc H job. In the evening Tubby preached to a packed congregation in Newcastle Cathedral at the annual Industrial Sunday Service, and at half-past nine we joined in with a jolly informal sing-song at Mark XVIII, at which many wonderful Tyneside songs were sung.

*April 19 :* Next morning Tubby paid a call on the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, who throughout has shown a keen and sympathetic interest in Toc H. We then went out to GATESHEAD, the home of Toc H in Newcastle, where Tubby talked to 350 boys about migration. It was a moving sight to see these lads with their cheery faces in spite of the fact that there was no work for them in their own homes and that probably they had never had a square meal in their lives.

Later we were the guests of the SOUTH SHIELDS Rotary Club at lunch, after which its President Col. Chapman took us out to his delightful country house for a truly restful afternoon. We were very grateful for that as Tubby was still feeling a bit knocked up after the somewhat heavy week-end and I was afraid I was in for another go of dysentery ! However Tubby was much refreshed and I was able to stave off the evil day. At 7 p.m. we went down to a perfectly splendid meeting of the SOUTH SHIELDS Branch, which was attended by the Mayor. There was a number of visitors there and enthusiasm ran high. We could not see much of them, as we had to go on, but there seemed no doubt that Toc H ran deep. It was a great joy to us to hear Col. Chapman say that he intended to come into Toc H as a humble member at the earliest opportunity.

In HEBBURN at 9 o'clock we found a truly remarkable little Group which is an object lesson to many in far more fortunate surroundings. There were about 80 present, and that night Tubby initiated the first 12 members. It is difficult to say much about it, but if Toc H can come to life so wonderfully in that little place where jobs are only to be had by the few, the big towns which have not yet taken Toc H to their bosoms should feel heartily ashamed.

*April 20 :* En route for Middlesbrough we called at CATTERICK Camp, where we were joined by Tim. We found great enthusiasm there in all ranks, and much honour is due to Col. Holbrook and their Jobmaster, a gunner officer attached to the "Sigs," for their pioneer work. We left Catterick at 6.15 to dine with the Middlesbrough Branch's President, Mr. C. Dorman, at 6 o'clock ! Needless to say we didn't, but we had a most thrilling cross-country race behind the finest map-reader in the British Army and arrived just in time for a biscuit and a glass of port before flying on to the meeting at 7.30, where our host was waiting for us. MIDDLES-



BROUGH is going strong, and the number of posers that Tubby had to deal with after his talk testified to the intelligent keenness of the Branch. Besides Middlesbrough there were representatives from SOUTH BANK, ESTON, GRANGETOWN, DARLINGTON and STOCKTON and there seems to be no ground for fear as to the future of Toc H in those parts.

April 21 : And so to LEEDS on Wednesday night. Poor Leeds, like Bradford, had to stand some pretty straight talking, but they took it well and, after some songs and fooling about, we parted the best of friends. Their main trouble has been the lack of any family life, but they are setting out to rectify this.

April 22 : At LINCOLN, which we reached on Thursday just in time for a re-dedication Service in St. Mary-le-Wigford Church, we found a real live show. The meeting in the Lindum Restaurant after the Service was one of the cheeriest we struck during the whole tour. There was plenty of singing and a goodly sprinkling of the fair sex, who will, we hope, be not long in establishing L.W.H. there with the help of the Mayor (a lady) who stated that she would be proud to become a member. We finally finished up with one or two at Bishop's Hostel before starting off at midnight for an all-night drive home.

In a scrappy account of this kind it is impossible to deal at all fully with the problems in each place ; they were well dealt with by Tubby on the spot. It was a joy and a privilege to go round on the trip, but there is no doubt that some of the new overseas Groups are far ahead of some of our old Branches at home. In order that we may go forward all along the line it is clear that we must make use of every wise method of discipline we can think of, and, above all, must guard jealously the quality of our membership. J. D. T.

## MEMBERSHIP—ACTIVE OR NOMINAL ?

NUMBER I of the Lincoln Branch *Bulletin* (June 1, 1926) contains the following note on membership, which forms an interesting postscript to the last paragraph of J. D. T.'s report on Tubby's Northern tour, printed above :—"The Executive Committee (of the Branch) have given very careful consideration to this matter during the past month, and especially in view of the weighty words of Tubby on the subject. They have come to the conclusion that the membership of the Branch must be most positively *active* and most definitely *not* nominal. This means that each member must be living and active in the true Toc H spirit, trying to spread goodwill among men, and doing something for somebody else and for the general good—not necessarily to the sound of drums and trumpets, but effectively. The following resolutions were unanimously passed at a representative Branch meeting on Monday, May 17, 1926.—(i) *That each new member shall serve a probationary period of six months, and shall prove during that time, to the satisfaction of the jobmaster and the Executive Committee, before he is initiated, that he is thoroughly suitable for full membership ;* and (ii) *that the Executive Committee must, at the end of each year, reconsider the names of the whole of the members individually with a view, if necessary, of pruning the membership down to one fully active.* Further (iii) *that each member must hand to the jobmaster once a fortnight details of any job the member may be doing that are not controlled by the jobmaster.* Members may rest assured that any information given under resolution iii will be treated with absolute confidence by the jobmaster. N.B.—We do not want to cut anyone out, and especially appeal to all members to help us in every way to make the Branch a living power for good in Lincoln." The course laid down in Lincoln's second and third resolutions has already been followed for some time by certain Branches and Groups. With regard to the first resolution, it is recognised by many that the original period of one month's probation laid down in the older membership forms is too short in some cases ; at the same time six months may be quite unnecessarily long for the best recruits. There is always a danger that any *specified period* of probation may become in time a matter of form and not a real test. B. B.

## THE YPRES PILGRIMAGE, AUGUST 28-30, 1926

**D**URING 1921 two Toc H pilgrimages were made to the "Immortal Salient." Since then many individual members have made visits, and now the wish has been expressed in several quarters that we should go together in force once more. Tubby has agreed to arrange his engagements so as to be free for *the week-end, August 28-30*, and "the booking office is now open." At present the size of the party is unlimited, and if there are enough members we shall try to book our own boat and special trains. The programme has not yet been worked out in detail, but the first suggestions are :—

1. To start on Saturday, August 28, and return on Monday, August 30. (It would be possible, of course, for members who are taking their summer holiday to make up parties afterwards to visit other parts of Belgium or France.)

2. To leave England in two parties, *viz.*, Northern members meeting at Hull would travel *via* Hull-Zeebrugge, and Southern members *via* Dover-Ostend. If the time-table proves possible the two parties might *rendez-vous* somewhere and enter Ypres together. Toc H in Hull, London, and Dover will do what it can to help Pilgrims going and coming.

3. To combine pleasure with cheapness. For the majority of members blankets on a dry floor in Ypres would be the right billet, while other accommodation, less exacting on the hip-bone and more on the purse, could be provided for those who preferred it. At a rough guess £4 ought to cover the week-end.

4. To ask the Ypres Group to make the arrangements at that end—in fact to treat the week-end as a vast guest-night "implosion" upon that small and isolated section of the Toc H family. (We have heard from Ypres that the Group is ready to tackle the job).

There is no need to say that this visit will be much more to Toc H members than a mere holiday : it will be a true Pilgrimage to the Birthplace of Toc H. We shall get a glimpse of the Old House and of the resting places of some of our Elder Brethren. The foundation member who sets out on the doubtful quest of finding his old dug-out in the Canal Bank will take with him some member of the younger generation who has never set foot on Flanders mud before. Members of the L.W.H. and wives, sisters, &c., of members are eligible to join the party, and suitable billets will be found for them.

Book the date now, and by the time you let us know we hope to have further details ready.

*It is absolutely essential that those who will organise the Pilgrimage—both at home and over there—should know the numbers of the party in good time. Members who intend to join it should send their names as soon as possible—in any event not later than July 15—to Alex Birkmire, 1 Queen Anne's Gate, London, S.W.1.*

B. B.

## TOC H POCKET DIARY FOR 1927

PUBLISHERS of Diaries—like editors of Christmas numbers—have to begin early. Hence our reason for talking about 1927 in the middle of 1926. Preparations are now being made for the production of Toc H Pocket Diary for next year. The price will be the same as before, *viz.*, to Branches and Groups, 20s. per dozen plus postage (for not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  dozen), for sale at 2s. each—profits to Branch or Group funds ; individual copies direct from the Registrar at H.Q. for 2s. 2d. including postage. Will Secretaries (particularly those of Overseas Branches and Groups) please note that in order to avoid the disappointment suffered by members last year who ordered too late, their orders should reach the Registrar by *September 1* ? If this request is followed we shall be able to guarantee delivery of Diaries to all, whether in the Old Country or in the region of the South Pole, by Christmas.

W. J. M.



## A LITTLE BRAIN WAVE

Pat and I were occasionally aware during the Tour of a certain disappointment among overseas folk coming "Home" on leave. England they love, but they find the English sometimes rather cold and trying. Any act of kindness or simple hospitality towards such visitors goes home with them, and is worth a dozen after-dinner speeches. I mind me of one big man in Australia, who has never forgotten the courtesy of a Londoner in corduroys, who got off a tram on his way home to pilot the stranger from the Embankment to Covent Garden! But this is a little suggestion for small towns and old-fashioned villages, through which ever summer such visitors pass upon their rapid pilgrimages. Why shouldn't Toc H or other people arrange to put some more welcoming sign than some bare warning to go slow, outside a few of the villages especially worth seeing? I'd like to see it tried. If

what I hope should happen, the idea would quickly spread; and the atmosphere of repulsion would be at an end.

TOC  H

THIS IS SLOCUM-IN-THE-HOLLOW  
WHERE OVERSEAS VISITORS  
ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME.

MR. & MRS. DORRITY OF MYRTLE COFFAGE  
are acting as Village Hosts this week to any of you who  
would care to call and see an old English home and  
garden while your tea at the Green Dragon is preparing.

WELCOME HOME!

A rota of families prepared to do the honours of the village would be prepared; and the visitors (who for the most part are sick of a series of hotels) would get a glimpse still more precious than any other in England—a peep into a simple English home. TUBBY.

## MULTUM IN PARVO

✧ The family of Toc H all round the world wants, with all its love, to stand by PAT LEONARD, whose sister "PATSY"—known to members in Manchester and elsewhere—met with a motor accident on May 11 and passed over a few hours after. To Pat, to his father and mother and to the man to whom this Elder Sister had just become engaged, we express the deepest sympathy of all of us.

✧ On May 25 our PATRON, accompanied by LORD FORSTER and TUBBY, visited CHRIST'S HOSPITAL. The Prince and Lord Forster addressed the school on emigration, and the latter paid a very warm tribute to Toc H (with which "Housey" is in very close touch) as "the greatest war memorial of all"; he referred especially to the Australian Groups and the welcome they could give to boys going overseas.

✧ The Right Rev. LEONARD BURROWS, Bishop of Sheffield, who has rendered much help to our work in the district for some time, has been appointed a Vice-President of Toc H.

✧ BERNARD LONG (late Captain, R.N.) has been appointed an Hon. Area Secretary, and has been posted *pro tem.* to Bristol; L. G. PAUL has been appointed part-time Assistant Secretary for Glasgow, working under Morris, the Hon. Secretary of the Branch.

✧ Marriage is epidemic just now among ex-Wardens of Mark I. After MAURICE OXENBOULD ("Oxo") was married at All Hallows on April 24, the wedding party embarked on a launch at the Tower for Westminster. PRIDEAUX LANCELOT BRUNE ("Prideaux") was married in London on June 5 to Miss Tetley; a nuptial Celebration was held at All Hallows in the morning. The very best wishes of the Toc H family to both pairs!

✧ All good wishes to MARK ROBINSON, late full-time jobmaster, who was ordained at Adelaide on St. Barnabas Day, June 11 (see February JOURNAL, p. 60); and to Padre and Mrs. GILBERT WILLIAMS who sailed on the same day on the *Arundel Castle* for South Africa.

✦ In the course of the Annual Meeting of the Central Council on April 24 ARTHUR, LORD SOMERS, the new Governor of Victoria (who has since sailed for Australia) was initiated as a member of Toc H; Tubby and Herbert Fleming acted as his sponsors. (This was unhappily omitted from the report of the Council meeting in May JOURNAL.)

✦ Rugby Group, when it becomes a Branch will be proud to hold a Lamp of Maintenance dedicated to RUPERT BROOKE, who was educated at Rugby School, whose father was a house-master there, and whose mother has given the Lamp. The poet joined the Royal Naval Division in 1914 but became ill on his way to the Dardanelles in the following year: he died at Scyros in the *Ægean* on April 23, 1915. "Gilbert Talbot" says *Tales of Talbot House* "would have been to English public life what Rupert Brooke began to be to English letters"; it is right that their names should stand together, in a very gallant company, in our Roll of Lamps.

✦ The proposal, made by Branches and Groups in the area, that a SOUTH YORKS FEDERATION should be formed, has been sanctioned by the Central Executive. The Branches concerned are Sheffield and Rotherham; the Groups are Barnsley, Doncaster, Hoyland, Rawmarsh, Walkley, Wath-on-Deerne, and West Sheffield. Branches and Groups subsequently formed within a defined area will come into the Federation, the H.Q. of which is Mark VIII, Sheffield, with W. MacLagan as Chairman and Arthur Lodge as Secretary. The Committee consists of elected members—one from each Mark, Branch and Group in the area, and nominated members appointed by the Central Executive.

✦ Arrangements for the 1926 BIRTHDAY FESTIVAL, to be held in Manchester on December 11-12, are well in hand—of the special committees both at H.Q. and in Manchester. The Thanksgiving Service will be held in Manchester Cathedral late on Saturday afternoon, and the Masque (largely a new version) in the Free Trade Hall in the evening. *Returns of members wishing to*

*attend will be wanted by September 30 this year,* as arrangements are not easy to make. Members should book the dates firmly and save their pennies *now*.

✦ The visits to Headquarters of members returning from abroad are of the greatest assistance to us in keeping touch with the progress of Toc H overseas. Padre PEARSON (Calcutta) is at present home on leave and has preached at All Hallows, and we had an unexpected and very welcome call recently from Padre MANSON, Garrison Chaplain of Colombo (see p. 233) who gave us much encouragement about work in Ceylon. Cyril Pearson returns to India, but Manson has taken up work at present at Cuddesdon Theological College.

✦ H. R. HILL (formerly of Exeter Branch), and A. PHEASY and F. TINGLE (both formerly of Walkley Group) have, under the orders of the Central Executive, been expelled from Toc H.

✦ On June 26 and 27 a TOC H CONFERENCE will be held at CROWBOROUGH, SUSSEX. The subject for discussion is "Christianity and Industrial Problems." Members will be in camp, and meals (tea on Saturday to tea on Sunday) will cost 5s. Any member wishing to be present should apply *at once* to S. V. Berwick, 180, Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.

✦ Hearty (if belated) congratulations to the LONDON TOC H SOCCER CLUB on winning the championship of the Second Division of the Southern Amateur League! This has been the Club's first season in this League, and they will figure in the First Division next season. Best o' luck for the championship of Division I at the first attempt! The second and third teams also had a very happy and successful season.

✦ The file of our "notable contemporaries" in the Toc H newspaper world increases month by month. May has added *The Lamp of India* (see p. 233), and June 1 brings the first number of the *Toc H Lincoln Bulletin*, a cyclo-styled paper of three foolscap pages, an extract from which appears on p. 223.



## SOME CAMP NOTES

A DAY in camp is worth a thousand (of theory about "boys' work"), and hundreds of Toc H "sheep dogs" will be in the open air with their respective flocks this summer. We print below the briefest particulars of a few camps in the hope that they may gain recruits. At the same time we know that a *great* many more camps in which Toc H is implicated, are being planned (we have made no attempt, for instance, to record the very numerous Scout camps) and should be glad to print particulars of any such, if sent in time for the July JOURNAL.

### I. TOC H SPORTS CLUB, LONDON

*Camp-site* on the Sports Ground, Folly Farm, New Barnet. *Open*, all through the Summer, to parties, up to sixty, of working boys. *Applications*, stating dates required, number of boys, names of persons in charge, and whether clubs, scouts, &c., to be sent to F. Domone, 4, Belsize Park Gardens, N.W.3, *at once* as not many dates are vacant.

### II. NORMAN'S BAY.

*Camp-site* at Norman's Bay Halt, between Bexhill and Eastbourne. *Dates*: The fatigue party goes down on June 16 to pitch camp. The first party of schoolboys arrives on June 25, sailor boys come in on July 14, and other parties from Schools, Missions, &c., in succession up to the end of August. *Staff*: The number in camp will be about 300, and a certain number of men will be welcome as staff and helpers. The weeks round about August Bank holiday are full up, but there will be vacancies in early July and late August. Men need not necessarily have camp experience, but should be prepared for any job. *Cost* for staff is 25s. per week, or more (or even less for the right people!). *Applications* direct to Padre C. W. Hutchinson, 9, York Road, London, S.E.1.

### III. SEASIDE CAMPS FOR LONDON WORKING BOYS.

The Treasurer, Secretary and Camp Commandant, and several members of the

Committee are members of Toc H, clubs run by Toc H are sending boys, and members are needed as helpers. *Camp-site* at Hawkes-hill, Walmer, near Deal. Canvas accommodation for a maximum of 400 boys. *Dates*: July 3 to September 4. *Open* to parties from clubs, firms, &c., under their own leaders, "school journeys" (first three weeks of July only), and individual boys between 14 and 20. *Cost* (exclusive of railway fares) for boys under 16, 15s. 6d. per week; under 18, 18s.; under 20, 22s. 6d. For helpers in charge of parties, £2 per week. *Applications* to the Camp Commandant, 55, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2 (after June 30, to Hawkeshill Camp, Walmer, near Deal, Kent).

### IV. EXETER J.O.C.

The Exeter Branch of Toc H administers the invested fund, the camp and the head-quarter building of the Juvenile Organisations Committee. *Camp-site* at Dawlish Warren, S. Devon. *Open* to organisations of all kinds, each being responsible for its own leaders, catering, &c. *Applications* to W. G. Michelmores, 18, Cathedral Yard, Exeter.

### V. READING BRANCH OF TOC H.

*Camp-site* at Hayling Island, near Portsmouth. *Open* to members of the Branch Boys' Club. *Date*: July 17-25. *All members* of Toc H are welcome. *Applications* to R. A. Frowde, 95, King's Road, Reading.

### VI. WHITBY, SCARBOROUGH AND BRIDLINGTON, TOC H.

*Camp-site* at Bridlington (intended to move to Scarborough and Whitby in successive years). *Date*: July to September. *Open* to parties of 50 boys, with their officers. *Accommodation* near sea and town; cook provided. *Cost*, nothing beyond fares and food. *Applications* to Arthur Lodge, Mark XII, Shaw Royd, Halifax.

### VII. WINDERMERE.

A supporter of Toc H wishes to undertake the cost of providing a standing camp, if it

can be filled with boys. *Camp-site*, two miles from Windemere, in a delightful valley, with bathing, &c. *Dates*: July 1 to September 30. *Cost*, fares and food. *Applications* to H. C. Miller, Mark XII, Shaw Royd, Halifax.

#### VIII. BOYS' BRIGADE.

There is opportunity for Toc H members, even if not officers of the Boys' Brigade, to help in the numerous B.B. camps which are run in many parts of the country. *Applications* to the Secretary, Boys' Brigade, Paternoster House, London E.C.4.

#### IX. CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE.

The same applies to the C.L.B. Camps as to those of the B.B. The London C.L.B. was largely staffed by Toc H members last year. Camps are as follows:—(1) *London*

*Division*, at Little Holland, Clacton-on-Sea, August 7-21. Apply to Rex Calkin, 7, Tower Hill, E.C.3. (2) *South-Western District*, at Dawlish, S. Devon, July 30 to August 7. Commandant Lt.-Col. Claude Ashby (Southampton Toc H). Apply to Rev. A. W. Bull, Burbage Vicarage, Marlborough. (3) *Eastern District*, at Clacton-on-Sea, July 30 to August 7. Apply to Major J. W. E. Battersby 10, Burghley Road, Leytonstone, E. 11. (4) *West Riding Brigade*, at Heysham, July 31 to August 28. Apply to C/Capt. M. W. Turner, Stoneleigh House, Agbrigg, Wakefield. (5) *North Eastern District*, at Whitburn, near Sunderland, July 31 to August 7. Apply to C/Maj. M. Nelson, 24, Eyre Street, Pallion, Sunderland.

## TOC H SCOUTING AND ROVER NOTES



SCOUT TRAINING COURSES: As last year, George Moore is running a Training Course at Seal Chart, Kent, from July 10 to 18. The Course will cover Part 11 of the Wood Badge. All Scouters and Rovers wishing to take the course are asked to send their names to N. A. Gillespie, 4, Queensbury Place, S.W. 7, before June 26.

\* \* \* \*

MADRAS.—A Toc H Scout Training Camp was held for five successive week-ends beginning April 24, by the Madras Group, at Rutland Gate, Nungumbaukam High Road. The courses aimed at teaching by theory, demonstration and practice, and the daily programme was a pretty full one, *viz.*, 6 a.m., Rouse, Scout exercises, &c.; 7.15, Tent Inspection and Prayers; 7.30-8.15, 8.30-9.15, 9.30-10.15, three Sessions on practical Scouting; 11.45, Breakfast, followed by compulsory rest, during which note-books must be written up; 2.30 p.m., 3.30 p.m., two more Sessions; 4.30, Tea; 5-6.30, Session; 7.30, Dinner; 8.30, Camp Fire; 9.30, Prayers. Those present were charged from Annas 8 to Rupees 12 for the week-end, according to circumstances.

L.W.H. AND GIRL GUIDES. — The L.W.H. became an Associated Society of the Girl Guide Movement on February 16, 1926. An Associated Society is one wishing to co-operate by helping with Badge Tests, by advice on Social Work for Guides, or by giving support in other directions. Mrs. Mark Kerr (Deputy Chief Guide Commissioner for the Home Counties) had tea with the London L.W.H. on Sunday afternoon, March 21, and afterwards told us how "Guiding" first started. She also explained many ways in which the L.W.H. could help the Guide movement, *i.e.*, by becoming Guiders and training to take Companies; by helping with Post Guides (the Post Guide Scheme enables any invalid girl in her own home or institution to become a Guide); by helping with Badge Examinations; by teaching Guide Companies specialised things; and by becoming Members of the Local Guide Associations. Miss Stewart has been asked by the L.W.H. Executive and the Guide Movement to act as Secretary for Guide Activities within L.W.H., and all correspondence *re* Guiding should be addressed to her at "New June," 50, Great Tower Street, E.C. 3. Pamphlets will soon be available explaining all about L.W.H. and Guiding.



## NEWS FROM BRANCHES AND GROUPS

BELFAST.—The Newsboys' Club will be opened for two nights a week only during summer months. At H.M.'s prison an educational scheme has been approved and started. It includes elementary education, more advanced classes, and also a natural history course, open to all. The advanced classes will have a literary and practical side—*Julius Caesar* and *The Merchant of Venice*, with book-keeping and arithmetic. For reading exercise the first night some Toc H leaflets served admirably, and the audience seemed to understand them more quickly than any other which has heard these ideas for the first time. Meanwhile, a lecture or concert has been given each week. The newsboys have been at football; and indoor meetings of any kind are not particularly desirable now. July 1 is the anniversary of the Somme, and we hope to have a supper.

PAT.

BLACKBURN.—Though no news of "Blegburn" has appeared for some time, it does not mean that we are dead—indeed, we have all hands busy. Our Scout troop has been handed over to the mission in whose area it was raised. We have suffered a loss by our padre "Tiny" having been called to a bigger job in Salford—to whom good luck.

BIFF.

CARDIFF.—The General Strike found Toc H here, and the younger element in particular, eager (rightly or wrongly) to help the volunteer movement. In a variety of ways, our people gave their services to the general public, often at much sacrifice. Cricket is once more in full swing and helps to keep the branch together; so far we have not lost a match. The annual fixture with Bishton C.C. (Chepstow) on Whit-Monday was much looked forward to. It is delightful to play under such ideal conditions! On Tuesdays, we try to teach the boys from the Central Boys' Club cricket, as well as organise other games for them. The club rooms are closed during the summer. We are hoping to

field a strong and representative Welsh XI at Bristol on June 19, to oppose the elect of the West of England. At the suggestion of Padre Hawkins a Study Circle has been formed to prepare one of the subjects to be discussed at the Bristol Conference (June 19-20), which will be introduced by two of our leading orators! Unfortunately, Wally Jones has found it necessary to resign the Secretaryship after about three years' hard work. We know he deserves a rest, but trust that his valuable services will be utilised for developing the many "Contacts" recently made in South Wales. Bernard Lawlor becomes the new Secretary, and has the full confidence of the branch. Bill Stretton, Jobmaster (the new representative on the Central Council), is trying to find men to assist in the running of the Summer Camps organised by the Miners' Welfare Scheme.

A. T. M.

COVENTRY.—As the years pass we have our difficulties; we have lost a few members whom we regarded as staunch, and the personnel of our executive officers has almost entirely changed—but the Branch has never flourished as at the present time. Whereas the jobmaster formerly bobbed up and down, making a weak noise, now there is no telling how long he will want to hold forth! Toc H has been given charge of a new club for after-care cases. Our orchestra recently travelled out to Stratford-on-Avon to play at a dance in aid of the Memorial Theatre, and a letter of mayoral thanks followed its return.

DOLLY.

GLASGOW.—*Extracts from a report on Toc H, contributed by Padre George McLeod (Edinburgh Branch) to the "Life and Work Committee" session of the Church of Scotland Annual Report:* "Since the last report, Toc H has made interesting experiments in Glasgow, and has proved that it is indeed possible for men of goodwill, with very differing outlook, to meet together and discuss without rancour many of their dif-

ferences. . . . That this 'can happen' is proved to anyone who was present among the sixty or so who gathered one night to hear a coal miner on the coal crisis. There were in the room a colonel of the Regular Army, a captain of Territorials, three Fascists, two Socialists, two men who had been inside of a prison, an ex-Borstal boy sitting beside a policeman, several unemployed, a clerk from the Unemployment Bureau quite near them, a Cambridge man actually on the same form as an Oxford man, a padre, and several who rarely go to church, and the rest from offices, shops and works. The incidental fact that the coal miner failed to make an appearance did not deter the above-mentioned prosaic gathering from discussing something else for two hours and singing songs together for half-an-hour. . . . Toc H is finding personnel for four Boys' Clubs in Glasgow, which two years ago were hampered in their work for lack of men. Toc H is finding Scoutmasters. It has ten men going round the houses of the blind in Glasgow keeping their wireless sets in order; when they are out of order they are mended for love by a member of Toc H who has a wireless equipment shop. Once a month, on a Saturday afternoon, it entertains crippled children in the Toc H rooms, and provides transport for them to and from their homes. Toc H men organised and are running the only Rover troop ever started among Borstal boys in prison; one member is tutoring another for a coming examination. Toc H is not proud of all this. It is more aware of the things that are still to be done. . . ."

[George McLeod's report also deals at some length with the aim of Toc H and the necessity for it. We expect soon to have good news of progress in Edinburgh.—ED.]

LANCASTER.—The group continues to go strong. The outstanding recent event was the visit of Padre Pat Leonard on March 18. After sitting down, in real Lancashire style, to a potato pie supper with members and friends, he gave us a vivid account, illustrated by a superb set of lantern slides, of

his world tour with Tubby. When the last slide had been shown everyone asked for more, so Pat regaled us with stories. He spent the night with Padre Edwards, and was seen off to Windermere next day by our Chairman and Secretary. During the winter we ran successfully several whist-drives for the Invalid Children's Aid Association and various local charities; and on May 19 we arranged to hold a parade and carnival, with bands, tableaux, Maypole and Morris dances, &c., on behalf of charities. A special book is being got out, and the ladies are doing a house-to-house collection.

#### THE SECRETARY BIRD.

LONDON FEDERATION — (a) *Jobmasters' Guestnight* at Mark III on Wednesday, June 23. Subject, "Social Survey." Discussion to be opened by Councillor George Leverett.

(b) *Jobmasters' Summer Conference* at "Bartons," Crowborough, Sussex, on July 3 and 4. Barkis in the chair. Tubby and Broch are expected to attend with many others. Week-end open to all. Names to London Jobmaster at H.Q.

(c) *Tower Hill*.—The Group meets in All Hallows' Porch Room, E.C.3, on Sundays, from 4.15 to 6.30 p.m. All visitors welcome. Tea at 4.15. Sunday, June 13, "At Home" to members of Eastern District Branches and Groups, with their ladies. Sunday, June 20, the Group entertains Indian Students. Sunday, July 4, Welcome to Mr. and Mrs. L. Prideaux-Brune.

NORTHAMPTON.—On April 21 we again entertained some of our fatherless boys, and the Scouts gave one of their very excellent Camp Fire Displays. The Scouts are now 50 strong, and the Rovers 7. On April 28 Mr. Blakeman, head of the Northampton Technical School, gave us a talk on "Hereditry," and on May 5 we reviewed the Winter Session, and decided to meet once a month only in headquarters during the summer months, or occasionally in the country, as arranged—all jobs to be carried on as usual. On May 12 there was a meeting and service



in the Chapel. *Meetings*: First Wednesday in each month at H.Q., at 8 p.m. R. L.

NOTTINGHAM.—On Friday, May 21, the fine "Upper Room" which the Branch has added recently to its headquarters was dedicated by the new Bishop of Southwell, Dr. Heywood. Padre J. H. Bateson (Central Executive) was to have taken part as the representative of the Free Churches, but was prevented by illness; Padre C. H. Hodgson took his place. On Saturday morning a Free Church Communion service was held at 7 a.m., when Padre Hodgson gave the Sacrament to nineteen members. Half an hour later the Anglican Celebration took place, and afterwards the united congregation, nearly fifty strong, breakfasted together in a café before going off to their work. "The padres" (says the *Methodist Recorder*) "went home thanking God for a new sign of Pentecost."

SOUTH BANK.—Situated as we are, in an area vitally affected by the Strike, our activities have been somewhat curtailed. Our meetings, however, have not suffered, and our ramblers continue to ramble—even in their utterances! On May 3 our Padre gave us a heart-to-heart talk on "the spiritual and physical sides of life," and also presented us with a portrait of his brother, to whose memory our Lamp is dedicated. Stewarding of concerts has become a common branch job, and in the near future we are running a flag-day, with the co-operation of our L.W.H., in aid of the Hull Seamen's Orphanage. We collect a monthly supply of magazines for the local hospitals. Facts and figures are being investigated by a select committee of the branch, with a view to running a Boys' Club—an urgent need of the town. We have decided to keep October 31, as being "Ypres Day," as the branch anniversary.

DAVIES.

TYNESIDE CONFERENCE.—We have had a bit of a strike up here, and our lines of communication have been cut, but from spasmodic messages that come through, it

is evident that Toc H is keeping its end up in isolated branches and groups. Gateshead, Newcastle, Craghead, and Tantobie had the benefit of a visit from Padre Pat Leonard from the 17th—19th inst.; the birth, growth, and aims of Toc H, and the world tour, were presented by means of lantern slides, and Pat's voice gave them life. We love Pat, some thousand odd of us! One of the lectures was held at Benwell parish hall, which the vicar, the Rev. C. F. Knyvett, kindly lent for "duration" to Toc H as a recreation hall for unemployed; over 500 men were present, and the enthusiasm displayed showed the value of the undertaking. The L.W.H. deserve a special "mention" for their indefatigable efforts in the cause of Toc H. They persuaded about 300 people to buy tickets and walk (there was no transport then) to an excellent entertainment, generously given by the Jesmond Jesters, and even produced a grand piano which presumably also walked, and a full purse towards the fund for completing the purchase of Mark XVIII. JOLLI.

[We have also received a copy of the circular letter sent out by "Jolli" Walker, the new Hon. Secretary of the North-Eastern Area, to branches and groups concerned, asking for their literary contributions to a *N.E. Area Bulletin* (not to be confused with the *Yorkshire Bulletin*, called *North Eastern* in its earliest issues). It intends to get printed and to sell at 2d. Welcome, in advance, to yet another "notable contemporary"!—Ed.]

(a) *Carlisle*.—The group, though in its veriest infancy, wishes to make itself heard. We were born on March 15, when several members of Toc H and interested persons met together to talk things over. We have since met regularly, usually once a week, at the Y.M.C.A., and several authorities on local welfare work, &c., have been to talk to us. As for jobs, some of us are employed on work connected with scouting, the Y.M.C.A., and a concert party giving entertainments for charitable purposes; and later we hope to assist in forming, and to take

over the running of, a Boys' Club in a poor part of the city.

GRIB.

(b) *South Shields*.—The Boys' Club has closed down for the summer period, and the social work has turned into channels of sport—swimming class and cricket—while a number of week-end camps are to be held. Recent speakers, Mr. Robinson on "Overseas," and Mr. A. E. Black on "Conventions." Peter, assistant jobmaster, has retired to the rural area of Morpeth, Northumberland, there to nurse the sick, and we hope, in sane moments, quietly recruit for Toc H. The tide has risen since Tubby landed. *Meetings: Fridays at 8.*

"SCRIBBLER."

WORTHING.—The Cricket team which is being run by the Branch as a means of keeping members in touch with one another during the summer is proving a great success, and so far holds an unbeaten record. We are looking forward to a big assembly at Lancing College in July when, in addition to beating Brighton Branch at cricket and tennis, we shall have the pleasure of meeting people from the other Sussex Branches and Groups, and of hearing an address from Tubby. We have decided to support a proposal, emanating from Crowborough, to form a County Federation for Sussex.

M. A. P.

### *Overseas Branches and Groups*

AUSTRALIA: *New South Wales*.—*Extract from a letter, dated 10.4.26, to Tubby, from Padre Ted Davidson, Marrickville:* "Group meeting on April 6—this was undoubtedly the best meeting we have had. Governor Campion was there to bring greetings from West Australia. . . . The Bishop of Riverina (Halse) hid himself in the corner and puffed away at his pipe. Father Cyril Barclay confessed himself agreeably surprised with our growth and the way the room has been transformed into a fairly comfortable family abode. The chapel called the "Rovers' Chapel" satisfied him. Tom has expended some careful thought on this corner, and the result is simplicity and beauty. You would hardly realise that the old floor could be so converted. I noticed that members drew the curtains aside and quietly retreated into the seclusion offered by the hallowed corner. . . . The council was represented by Judge Harvey, Medley (the Oxford and Cambridge don), and one other whom I had not set eyes on before. Albert White was in the chair. The chief guests of the evening were six crippled diggers from the Graithwayte Soldiers' Home, North Sydney. Two of them had to be carried as they are paralysed from the waist down. The new system of starting with a sit-down tea (corned beef and salad) works exceedingly well.

Altogether the evening was a happy one and, I hope, instructive to the elder blokes—the judges, bishops, deans and councillors. Needless to say the younger fry. . . . added to the gaiety. . . . We need the intelligent prayers of the elder members of the family."

EGYPT AND PALESTINE: (a) *Jerusalem*.—*Extract from a letter, dated May 18, to Peter Monie from Padre Geoffrey Lunt, Archdeacon of Cairo, and Padre of the Cairo Group:*—"I had a delightful evening with the Jerusalem Group. The great problem there is that there is practically no social service which does not demand a knowledge of Arabic; and so they have started a small language group, and half a dozen of them are sitting at the feet of a member of the Group who knows Arabic; and simply for the sake of being able to do Toc H social service are plodding away at colloquial Arabic through this hot weather. That, I think, is the right spirit."

(b) *Suez*: *Extract from the "Egypt and Sudan Diocesan Review," for May:*—"Toc H is still going strong, and is making itself felt in Suez. We have just secured a Toc H House on the island in the Creek, thanks to our old friend Mr. Innes. He has given us the house merely for the payment of the Government Rental of £(E)2 per annum. We intend to furnish the House as a summer



resort for our members and friends. We should be very grateful to receive gifts of furniture, &c., in order to make it a comfortable Rest-House for any who care to come under its roof. The House will not only be used for ourselves but also for seamen who care to take advantage of its hospitality."

INDIA AND CEYLON: (a) *Calcutta*.—*Extract from a letter, dated April 19, to Pat Leonard from Father Douglass, of the Oxford Mission to Calcutta, Behala*:—"We've just emerged from some silly riots: the real cause of which was—in spite of all that the authorities may say—of course, to give Toc H an opportunity of service. I heard nothing of the service till it was all over, which shows that it was properly rendered. But apparently they chartered a big confectioner's van, and spent a large part of the nights, being in office all their days, in visiting all the pickets in the devastated regions and stuffing them with sausage rolls and buns and iced coffee, &c. Some gunners who were protecting a horrid little heathen-godling in his temple, told me it was the only bit of grub they got by night; which shows that it was duly appreciated, even if it was not quite so lovely as that!" (*We have also received a copy of a breezy report of this Toc H job, contributed to "The Chaka" (The Wheel), the organ of the Rotary Club of Calcutta*.—ED.) "For my own part, I am inclined to believe that sporadic efforts of service are about as much as most really good men, who are hard at work all day, are strong enough to give in a tropical climate; though there are some few who can go on day after day, and night after night, sweating away at Scouts and such things, and they leave me speechless with admiration. . . . It puts me to shame to think of all the work you're doing for us—incidentally with Toc H lecturing. But years and years of experience of the same sort of shame are apt to make one take it all as a matter of course. And yet I don't suppose that there is a Padre abroad who does not realise quite well, when he thinks, that it's the faithful lives and

prayers somewhere else that alone can account for all sorts of glorious things that happen in out-of-the-way heathen lands. And when he thinks, you may be sure he feels pretty grateful!"

We have also received from Calcutta the first number (May) of *The Lamp*, the monthly paper published by the Toc H Council for India. It is a very neat 12-page octavo paper, with an orange cover. It contains an excellent short article on Toc H, headed "What mean ye?", a list of the India Council, news from the Groups, &c. Heartiest good wishes from the old JOURNAL to the new!

The minutes of a Group meeting in Calcutta, on May 11, jobmaster David Doyle in the chair, which have also reached us, gives a glimpse of a busy life. The jobmaster asked for a pianist ready to learn the organ, and for an assistant Scoutmaster—both for Scott's Lane. Details of a Whitsun weekend at Barrackpore, of a swimming picnic for men of the North Staffords at Behala, on May 29, and of a concert party for the Leper Asylum on May 27 were announced, and work at the Seamen's Institute and the Soldiers' Club was discussed.—ED.

(b) *Colombo*.—*Extract from a letter, dated April 12, to Tubby from Francis Mathew (late Warden of Mark I)*:—"Put this date in your notebook, and remember it as being the occasion of the first Initiation Ceremony in Colombo Toc H. It was an extraordinarily good show, sixteen fellows being initiated. The Garrison Padre, Manson, took the chair, and Colin Kerr (*late Secretary of Mark II*) and yours truly acted as sponsors to this large christening of what looks to be a very vigorous family. It was a great occasion, and one felt one was taking part in something unique. There was a good gathering—sixty-five, all told—of prospective members as onlookers. We have roped in quite a large contingent of gunners and some Navy lads, too, and a representative batch of Cingalese also. It's very heartening and leads one to hope for great things. The vision of a Colombo House is still a vision—

but assuming a clearer shape in view of the necessity of having somewhere to house our Chapel and Lamp, and a meeting ground to which all will come. The Y.M.C.A., and particularly the British Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute, have been truly magnificent in their response to our present needs—but, at the present rate of growth, a permanent dwelling would be a god-send. The 1925 harvest is rolling in! Gerald Streatfield (*Secretary of Kandy Group*) spent a night with me at the end of his term (*i.e., at Trinity College, Kandy*) before going to Madras, from which place I have received a volume of a letter, full of glowing enthusiasm for the prospects there. I want Kandy and Colombo to have a week-end 'chin-wag' next term; we have started thinking of it now. We are also looking forward to meeting Padre Macpherson, of Madras, who comes to take up his duties as Warden of St. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia."

(c) *Madras*.—We have received the minutes of three meetings of the Madras Group on April 15, 21, and 29. At the first, work at the Asylum (with a concert party) and at the prison were reported on, and it was decided to run five week-end camps for Scouts. The possibility of work at Tanjore Borstal Institution was mooted, and since then we have heard that Groups may materialise both at Tanjore and at Ootacamund, a well-known hill-station. The chief feature of the second meeting was the visit of Padre Dick Pelly of Calcutta Group, who told Madras members of the progress of his own Group. The problems confronting the two Groups seemed to be much alike, but the difficulty of breaking down barriers between different grades and professions of Europeans was considerably greater in Calcutta. The Calcutta Group had decided (not without the resignation of one member) that Toc H must eventually be open to all races. At the third meeting various work was reported upon (see also *Scout Notes*, p. 228), but a moonlight bathing picnic to which the Group wanted to invite 25 men of the Lancashire Fusiliers, had been found impossible as the sea was out of bounds

to all ranks. A picnic next full moon, on the Adyar River, was planned instead. The Group decided to meet in future at the Minden Club, in a room rented from the Lanes.—ED.

NEW ZEALAND: (a) *Christchurch*.—The minutes of two ordinary meetings of the Group have reached H.Q., and the following is a brief summary of them. On March 23 the Rushlight of the Group, brought out from England by Padre Barnacle Brown, was lit at Christchurch for the first time. A deficit in Group funds of nearly £5 being reported, it was decided to hold a sale of "junk," to hold a concert and to send out a letter to sympathisers, detailing the Group's various aims and inviting contributions towards any of these. Guest-nights were fixed for the first meeting in each month, other meetings to be confined to members and probationers. The jobmaster reported on regular work being done at the Presbyterian Orphanage, Rannardale Home and Coronation Hospital, and help offered to the Nursing Association. Speakers on Toc H were arranged for the Presbyterian Bible Class Camp and the Boys' High School. The Padre then read to the meeting Tubby's Australian booklet, *Feet firm, Hands busy* (reprinted in the JOURNAL of December, 1925, pp. 333-339). At the meeting on April 6 the jobmaster reported, among other things, that the Boys' High School had been addressed and would probably carry out the job suggested to them in connection with the Methodist Orphanage; also that the Scouts were ready to accept any assistance from Toc H. Mr. J. M. Mackenzie then addressed the Group on "The Youth Work of the Y.M.C.A." The ceremony of "Light" concluded the meeting.—ED.

(b) *Wellington*.—*Extract from a letter, dated April 11, 1926, to Tubby from A. B. Malyon, Group Secretary*: "We are getting along slowly, but, I think, surely here. We have plenty of jobs, and are about to open a campaign to get more active members. I am, as you know, Schools Organiser, and in Welling-



ton I am concentrating on Scots College at present—with good results. Some of the senior boys come to the guest-nights, and have been helping us at the Sevin Memorial Homes, where we are levelling the ground so as to make a playground for the kids; one Saturday there were fourteen of our chaps and fourteen from Scots College. At Scots College there are 74 boarders and 19 of these belong to the Wastenton district, so that as we get in touch with these we have the nucleus of a Group in Wastenton when they leave school. I hope later on to be able to go to Wanganui College with Padre Taylor. Last Thursday we met the R.M.S. *Corinthic*, took charge of thirteen schoolboys who arrived on her, and saw them off on the latter part of their journey. We hope to be able to get a room soon and so be more effective in our operations. Padre Taylor is giving us the proceeds of three jumble sales a year (amounting to about £30) towards the room. Padre Emmitt addressed Scots College on Toc H, and Padre Taylor the Cadets at the Community Club on three evenings; the average attendance was 350 a night, and his address was well reported in the paper. Next week Sir Allen Roberts is to be our guest and to speak on "The Wembley Exhibition." Our President, Sir Andrew Russell, was here on Thursday and spoke to the schoolboys from the *Corinthic* before they left here."

UNITED STATES: *Extract from a letter, dated May 19, 1926, to Peter Monie from Padre Pryor Grant:* "We have just this week gotten the conditions of this house (i.e., 'The House that Jack built,' Mark II, U.S.A., New York—see *March JOURNAL*, p. 104) settled with the landlord. It was hard to plan something when we didn't know how long

we could stay. Now we are taking the whole thing at a year's lease. . . . We want a team of ten men living in, and we are beginning regular meetings on Thursday evenings; thus far our meetings have been at irregular intervals and the job end has not been organised. It is the few who have shown real interest and are seriously concerned that we are trying to bring together now, and with that kind of a nucleus we shall soon be growing into new quarters. We are known to the Charity Organisation Society, the Scouts, the Big Brothers, the City Missions Society, and they are all clamouring for men. Sir Robert Baden-Powell called on us, and spoke of Toc H before 2,000 Scout leaders at a dinner tendered him. That was the most perfect introduction to the Scout people here we could possibly have had, and I hope you and Tubby will add your word of gratitude to him for what he has done. Yesterday I received an autographed photograph of him with 'Success to Toc H!' on it. And to-day the Chief Executive of the Scouts in this country wrote and asked me to lunch with him, ending his letter, 'I am tremendously interested.' Washington is getting along splendidly. . . . I was in Norfolk about three weeks ago and had a meeting with a splendid group there. William McCormick Paxton, 1150, Manchester Avenue, is the leader, and a finer one we couldn't have found. He heard of Lusk's return with the Lamp, and we corresponded with him; now he is in the process of forming a Group in a place where Toc H is very much needed. . . . Ted Jessup, Headmaster of Ridgefield School, is getting up a party of six or eight last form boys for a trip to Europe this summer; he is very much interested in Toc H. We shall give advance notice of their coming."

## *The League of Women Helpers*

WEST HAM.—An L.W.H. Group has been in existence here just over three months. Meetings are held every Wednesday at 8 o'clock at the "Den," which has been kindly lent to us by the "Toc H Boys." Our average muster is about 12 and we are just

beginning to feel the real spirit of the movement. We have undertaken one or two small jobs, but are looking to doing bigger things in the future, our main aim being to assist the local Cripple Hospital for whom we do all the sewing.

F. M. M.

# SECRETARIES' LIST, APRIL AND MAY ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS.

(a) *New Groups registered (at home)*: BARRY, W. Stonehewer, 16, Woodland Road, Barry, Glam.; BELLINGHAM, L. W. Richards, 56, Broadmead, Bellingham, S.E. 6; BECKENHAM, C. E. Perkins, 23, Cedars Road; BEVERLEY, W. A. Atkinson, 49, Mill Lane; BIRKENHEAD, R. M. Henderson, "Fir Bank," Vyner Road North, near Bidston; CLACTON-ON-SEA, R. Davis, "Shamrock," Wellesley Road; DORMANSTOWN, E. Graydon, 12, Cleveland Place, Dormanstown, Redcar, Yorks; ENFIELD, S. F. Dovey, Clay Hill Lodge; ESTON, J. W. Medtrum, 33, High Street, Normanby, Eston, Yorks; GAINSBOROUGH, W. E. Blowright, "News Office," Market Place, Gainsborough; GREAT BUDWORTH, E. Southern, The School, House Great Budworth, near Northwich; HEBBURN-ONTYNE, H. M. S. English, 21, Church Street; HOLMFIRTH, J. H. Brook, 80, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, Yorks; HOXTON, G. A. W. Walters, 41, Lothbury, E.C. 2; LOUTH, C. W. Uzzell, 140, Eastgate; MORECAMBE, W. Kellett, 1, Skipton Street; RAWMARSH, E. Hague, 203, Green Lane, Rawmarsh, near Rotherham; TILBURY, E. S. Flower, 62, Sydney Road, Tilbury Docks; WEST SHEFFIELD, J. E. Roebuck, 21, Ruth Street, Sheffield; WOODBRIDGE AND DISTRICT, K. J. Oxborrow, Stone Cottage, Pettistree, Wickham Market. (*Overseas*) CAWNPORE (India) A. C. Inskip, c/o Messrs. Cooper, Allen & Co.; COLOMBO (Ceylon), R. C. Kerr, c/o Colombo Commercial Co.; FREMANTLE (W. Australia), A. S. Burtenshaw, c/o The Colonial Sugar Corporation, Henry Street; HAIFA (Palestine), Sergt. C. V. Curtis, British Gendarmerie; HINAIDI (Iraq), F. G. Gentry, Royal Aircraft Depot, Hinaidi, near Baghdad.

(b) *Change of Secretary (at home)*: BEDFORD, S. R. Evans, 38, Kingsley Road; BRADFORD, H. Cockroft, 40, Beech Grove, Undercliffe; CARDIFF, B. Lawlor, "Salvador," 22, Cyn Coed Road, Penylan, Cardiff; COCKERNHOE, E. Henman, 102, Mangrove; FELLING, J. A. McLean, St. Alban's Vicarage;

GRIMSBY, H. J. Sanders, 26, Alexandra Road; HEREFORD, M. Marshall, The Manor House, Breinton, near Hereford; ISLINGTON, H. J. T. Ford, 81, Yerbury Road, Tufnell Park, N. 19; MAIDSTONE, J. C. Baxter, 9, St. Philip's Avenue; READING, R. A. Frowde, 95, King's Road; ROMFORD, A. H. Coryn, "Welwyn," Walden Way, Hornchurch, Essex; ROTHERHAM, C. Ashford, 161, Station Road, Swinton; SOUTHAMPTON, Lt.-Col. R. Pennell, Mark V, Bassett; SOUTHGATE, W. P. Burden, 78, High Road, N. 11; SOUTHPORT, H. E. Wood, 24, Moss Lane; "THE CADIES," V. D. Perrin, 28, Antill Road, Bow, E. 3; TOWER HILL, A. E. E. Shields, 7, Tower Hill, E.C. 3; WEST KENT, F. C. Revers, Tollgate, Bearstead, near Maidstone; WOOLSTON, F. G. Gill, 149, Swift Road. (*Overseas*): AUCKLAND (N.Z.), H. Dyer, 3, Hynyard Street; BOMBAY "I," J. E. G. Ranger, c/o General Electric Co., Sohrab House, Hornby Road; CAIRO, F. A. Hogg, P.O. Box 243; NEW YORK, Edward Webber, 560, West 24th Street; ROSARIO (Argentine), G. M. Hotlaw, c/o British Consulate, Calle Entre Rios 679; VANCOUVER (B.C.), Lyle E. Munn, 1014, 11th Avenue, West; WINNIPEG, F. D. Ross, Mark I (C), 11, Kennedy Street.

(c) *Change of Address*: MIDDLESBROUGH Secretary to 28, Pembroke Street; OLDHAM Secretary to 2, Auburn Bank, Moston Lane, New Moston, Manchester.

(d) *Corrections*: DOVER Secretary's initial is F (not E); LEAMINGTON Secretary's address is 20 (not 24), Clapham Street; RAINHAM Secretary's address is "Macklands" (not "Mackslands").

(e) *L.W.H. New Groups*: CHELSEA, Mrs. Sladen Wing, 21, Cheyne Gardens, S.W.; COVENTRY, Miss D. Lane, 46, Holyhead Road; LIGHTCLIFFE, Miss D. Glossop, Greenbank, Hipperholme, Yorks; PORTSMOUTH, Mrs. Hersee, 163, Victoria Road North, Southsea. N.B.—*Delete* TUNBRIDGE WELLS; *transfer* BIRMINGHAM from Branch to Group list. *Change of Secretary*: BIRMINGHAM, Miss F. M. Mason, 7, Lime Grove, Handsworth; NOTTINGHAM, Miss P. Young, 3, Howard Street.